



The News



Italiestraat #5 Tel.: 24725 Fax.: 26125 •Editor B.Blanchard •Publisher G.J. Schouten Established 1951

Aruba lands 169-nation annual Interpol convention

PALM BEACH--The gigantic annual convention, or General Assembly, of Interpol, the police organization of 169 member countries throughout the world, will be held in Aruba September 29 through October 5.

Speaking today with Aruba's Director of Public Order and Security, Roland Peterson, THE NEWS learned the convention is expected to attract delegations from at least 150 Interpol countries totaling over 600 persons!

Headquarters of the 1993 Interpol General Assembly will be at Americana Aruba Resort here, with a spill-over of guests staying at the Hyatt, Holiday Inn Aruba, Radisson, Hilton, and other nearby hotels.

Since the island joined the elite police group in 1988, Peterson has been active in its



ROLAND PETERSON

affairs. He has organized a number of smaller Interpol meetings on the island in his capacity as Chairman of the Caribbean and Central America Region of Interpol, a post he has held since 1990.

More importantly, he is

also one of the nine members of Interpol's Executive Committee, on which he represents the entire Americas.

The powerful policy-making group meets three times annually, usually at the modern new Lyon, France, headquarters of Interpol.

The Aruban was instrumental at last year's Interpol General Assembly in getting the delegates to agree to hold the 1993 version in Aruba. Following Peterson's presentation about the island, Aruba received 70 percent of the votes for the 1993 site. Turkey had been Peterson's main competitor.

Members during the week-long meeting in Aruba will receive updatings on computerization and telecommunications, international terrorism, currency counterfeiting, organized crime, and such economic offenses as money laundering and industrial espionage.

A top item on the delegates' agenda will be revision of the Interpol constitution, and Aruba is hopeful of having the passage calling for a stand on crimes against children to in future include the world's elderly and disabled.

"These last two groups of persons are often forgotten," says Peterson, adding that Aruba feels an Interpol resolution to protect them is needed.

If such is adopted in September, it will cause enormous wheels to spin in the enforcement world, necessitating meetings with United Nations and others, ultimately seeing many nations of the world actually enact or change laws.

This marks the first time a police meeting of such magnitude will be held anywhere in the Caribbean, and Peterson, in his capacity of head of the island's National Central Bureau-Aruba, with the help of other local government offices, is carefully making necessary preparations.

These include protocol acts, such as the Aruba Governor's opening of the General Assembly on September 29 in the Ballroom of the Americana, and addresses by both the Aruba Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice.

The Aruba government will tend the delegates a large welcome reception at a site

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still to be determined, Peterson says.

Members of the world's press will cover the Assembly and Aruba is setting up a press room for them. Copies of everything said at the meeting will be rushed to Lyon and back on the island translated into several languages within a few hours.

In his position as Director of Public Order and Security, Peterson, who served as Police Commissioner until 1989,

advises the Minister of Justice on all police affairs, the Fire Department, and Correction Institute. He also oversees admittance of foreigners to the island. His department houses the government Training and Forming Institute and Peterson is also the island's national disaster coordinator (for oil-spills, weather catastrophes et al).

He is a graduate of America's famed F.B.I. Academy and a member of a number of international police fraternities.